

Re Jonathan - Great that you could join with us.
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Dear Members and Friends of the 451st Bomb Group,

Several weeks have passed since about 180 of us convened at Deerfield, Illinois for the final national reunion of the 451st Bomb Group. From numerous contacts with those attending, it is evident that our meeting and programs were rated highly successful in all respects. Our huge telephone campaign to encourage attendance contributed significantly to the overall program results. It now appears that from Reunion operations coupled with contributions received, we will be able to send along a substantial check to Bob Karstensen to assist with the Ad Lib publication costs.

The camaraderie exhibited at this reunion was truly special as illustrated by the following happening. Gus Margaritis and Victor Klopfenstein were seated side by side at the speakers table. Reflecting back they amazingly realized that as POW's their paths had crossed back in 1944. At that time they had been herded into a railroad boxcar and had endured a long "standing only" trip enroute to a German prison camp.

Attached is a photograph of the Bomb Group Survivors who were present along with pictures of the various speakers. No doubt many of you also have some interesting pictures and your sending along extra copies would be greatly appreciated.

At the Reunion, we somehow lost or misplaced the following items which were posted at the Registration Desk area.

1. Picture of a single B-24 that had just passed through a heavy barrage of still visible exploding "flak" shells.

2. A sheet setting forth the words of a song about the B-24 which had been sung in one of the officers club.

Should you by chance have extra copies of the foregoing, please furnish a copy. Any other pictures of this nature also would be welcomed.

I again want to thank you for making the special effort to get to our Reunion. Hopefully, many of you will continue to meet with 451st survivors and friends in your state and local areas. Do feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance in any manner. Best wishes for the years ahead.

Winson "Big" Jones, Reunion Manager